

Record

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VOL. 122

No. 1

Americans, Nicaraguans team for Christ

By Wally Poor
IMB Correspondent

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (BP) — Three hundred volunteers from 11 countries teamed with Nicaraguan Baptists and Southern Baptist International Mission Board missionaries in a January crusade that registered more than 10,000 decisions for Jesus Christ.

"This has been an historic time. Never before in our history has such a widespread evangelistic effort been carried out," declared Walt Morgan, director of missions for the Nicaragua Baptist Convention.

The effort ran Jan. 9-19, but several days after it ended, reports from churches were still incomplete.

More than 4,000 people participated in a stadium victory celebration to close the crusade.

Volunteers from the United States, Honduras, Mexico, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Panama, El Salvador, Chile, Brazil, and Colombia — and even a Cuban pastor now living in Georgia — fanned out across the length and breadth of the country in teams of two to four

people to work alongside Nicaraguan Baptists in 105 churches and mission points.

Some had to travel two days to get to the site of their ministry.

Preliminary results indicated the "Jesus Loves You" campaign will record more than 12,000 decisions for Christ and 6,000 baptisms, Morgan said.

Bilingual students from East Texas Baptist University in Marshall as well as students from the Nicaragua Baptist Academy and students from other countries helped as translators.

The volunteers were enlisted through International Crusades of Dallas and the Noonday Baptist Association, Marietta, Ga.

Missionaries Jim and Viola Palmer and Keith and Penny Stamps helped the volunteers reach their churches.

Nicaraguan Baptists have been praying and preparing



SHARING RESULTS — Jim Price (left) of Lindsay, Okla., tells Francisco Nunez of his work in the small village of San Jacinto during a nationwide evangelistic effort that registered more than 10,000 decisions for Jesus Christ in Nicaragua. Nunez is vice president of overseas operations for International Crusades, one of the organizations that recruited volunteers for the January crusade. (BP photo by Betty Poor)

for the campaign for months. Most of the churches used the "Operation Andrew" program, in which a member lists and then prays for the salvation of three to 10 individuals for several months before the evangelism campaign.

During the campaign, volunteers and church members visited these people.

The volunteers shared their testimonies, previously translated into Spanish.

The church member who prayed for the new convert's salvation later helps the new believer with a seven-lesson discipleship course.

Many churches moved their

meetings outdoors to accommodate the crowds.

Two neighbors from Acworth, Ga., had to come to the little village of Chamguatillo to get acquainted.

When John Darnell, pastor of Autry Church of Acworth, saw lawyer Robert Ingram, he recognized him because he knows both Ingram's father and uncle.

The experience of seeing Baptists from so many countries working together affected both Baptists and non-church people in Nicaragua, said William Delgado of the Masaya church.

"It's a real challenge to us," Delgado said.

Teens reveal attitudes

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — A recent survey of Southern Baptist teenagers revealed three-fourths have trouble with their tempers, nearly half cheat on tests, and almost one-fourth have thought about killing themselves.

The same survey, however, shows 78% don't drink, 83% do not take drugs and a total of 93% pray "daily" or "weekly."

The Southern Baptist Baptist Sunday School Board survey included 2,501 youth quired at a number of 1997 summer youth conferences.

Ninety-five per cent of the youth answering the survey claimed to be Christians. Fifty-five percent of the respondents were female; 45% were male.

On the issue of teens contemplating suicide, an analysis by school grade revealed that 25% of high school students compared to 18% of all junior high students considered killing themselves.

Forty-four percent of the youth said they "sometimes" cheat on tests, while 48% do not.

Eight percent of those surveyed answered "yes" when asked if they cheat on tests.

Of the youth surveyed, 64% read their Bibles weekly or daily, yet 51% said they seldom tell people about Jesus, and 79% would or might date someone who is not a Christian.

Other findings in the 1997 survey include:

- Approximately three-fourths (78%) said sex before marriage is wrong. That's a 6% increase over the 68% who answered the 1994 survey. Three percent of the youth said sex before marriage is "OK." Eleven percent said it's OK only if the people love each other, and 1% said women should have the right to abort, and 1% didn't answer the question.

- Seventy-seven percent said they do (9%) or they sometimes (68%) say bad things about people behind their back. However, 23% said they do not speak badly of others when not around.

WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

Ballards join IMB

Fear sustains abuse

Annie posts fifth record

MC names trustees

Looking back

10 years ago

Joe Cobb is honored for 20 years of service to the Baptist Student Union (BSU) of Northeast Community College in Booneville. Known affectionately around the BSU as "B.J." for "Bro. Joe," Cobb has served as director of the Northeast Community College BSU since 1967.

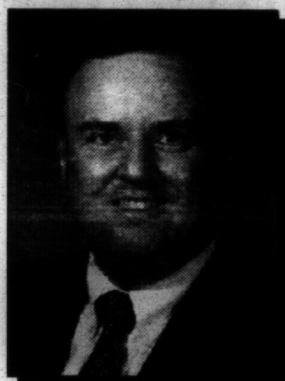
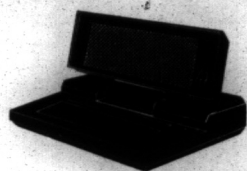
20 years ago

Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) celebrates its 100th anniversary — ten years older than the national WMU. The centennial theme and logo, "Our Best for God," are adapted from the 25th anniversary WMU logo that debuted in 1913.

50 years ago

Pastor H. D. Jordan and members of Bunker Hill Church, Marion Association, rejoice at the purchase of four blue and white buses for use in helping more people get to church. The buses are purchased with money collected from Fifth Sunday offerings over many years.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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The only Jesus they will ever see

The new tenant in the garage apart-
ment seemed nice enough, if a little
distant. The apartment was small for
a mother and two preschool children, but
she treated it as her castle. She was just the
type of tenant one would want only few
feet from one's own door.

It started in the early morning darkness
a few weekends later. With a loud crash
that shook the whole house, her drunken,
estranged husband kicked the garage
apartment door and tore it from its hinges.

As the mother desperately gathered her
terrified children in her arms and
fled down the street, her angry hus-
band began to break everything in
her place. When he finished in the
apartment, he broke every window
in her car parked in the driveway.

My hand shook as I dialed 911. I
could hardly speak as the emer-
gency operator came on the line. The
drunken man began searching for
his wife, staggering first to our front
door and then out into the street.

It was some time later, after the
police left, that I noticed the dried
streaks on my face. Even though we
were unharmed, the terror I felt for
myself and my family apparently had
caused tears to spill involuntarily
from my eyes.

For the first time in my life, I had
been exposed to domestic violence.

For those of us who were raised in stable
families in the buckle of the Bible Belt we
call Mississippi, it seems so hard to believe
— even into adulthood.

For those of us who never saw our
fathers on week-long drunken rages or our
mothers with battered faces, it's easy to dis-
miss domestic abuse as another social aber-
ration of the "lower classes."

Associate Editor Carl M. White's eye-
opening series of articles on domestic abuse

continues on page four of this
issue. Every Christian should be
troubled by what White has found
in the course of his research.

Of course, that domestic abuse is
all around us comes as no shock to
experts like Elizabeth K. Holmes,
consultant for women's and family
issues at the Mississippi Baptist
Christian Action Commission, or
John Kendrick, a bivocational pas-
tor who serves as associate director
of the Resource Center Network,
which provides shelter and support
to abused families in Mississippi.

Likewise, domestic abuse is
hardly a new social phenomenon,
but the low state of our present-day
American culture inarguably con-
tributes to this increasing problem.

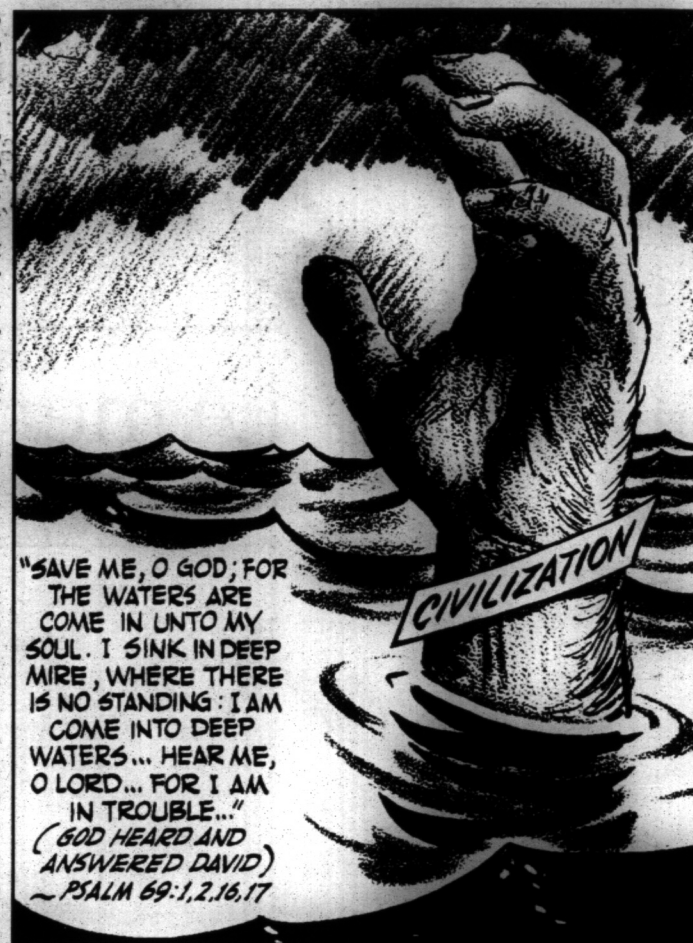
It's impossible to watch a night
of television — any night of the
week — and not see a person
being abused in some way or com-
pelled to act against his/her will.

Study the lyrics of some of the
best-selling pop music of today,
and you will find many of the
songs openly endorse absolute
contempt for individuals and the
use of force in relationships
between men and women.

Hollywood types march in the
streets for the rights of abuse victims, then
go back to their studios and fill their
movies with two hours of endless, animal-
istic sex and violence.

Almost all of that sociopathic cultural
input is reflected in the fabric of our families
— the cornerstone of our society. As families
go, so goes the next generation. As the next
generation goes, so goes our nation.

As our nation goes, so goes our Christian
witness to a lost world. If that doesn't
frighten, you must be really insulated.



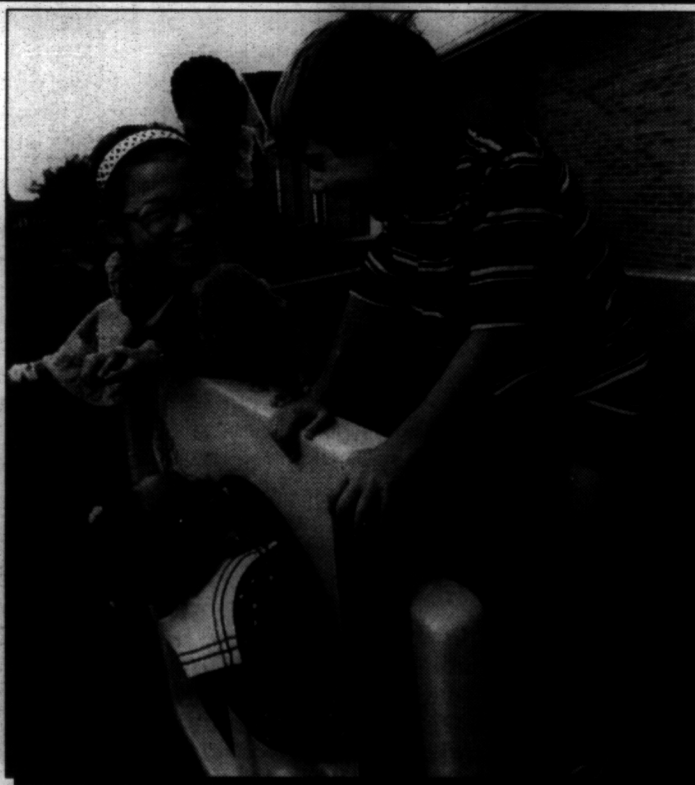
The crushing load of important social
issues we confront as Christians in
America understandably leads to a sense
that we can't do it all.

Domestic abuse, however, is one of the
issues that needs to be near the top of every
Christian's "to do" list. There is too much
to lose if the battle is not joined.

Pray for the innocent victims of this
social cancer, and get involved. For the
people who live in such a hell on earth, you
may be the only Jesus they will ever see.

GUEST OPINION *Loving as Christ loved*

*By Derric Morrison, pastor
Mt. Sinai Church, Tupelo*



RACE RELATIONS SUNDAY

February 8, 1998

point on the road to racial rec-
onciliation.

We need to fully understand
that Scripture says while we
were yet sinners, Christ died
for us. (Romans 5:8, KJV) mean-
ing that reconciliation was not
offered to man because he was
good and deserving but
because of the love of God
which is extended through his

Son Jesus Christ.

In John 15:12-17, the Lord Jesus
commands us to love one another as
he has loved us.

I believe that racial problems in life
come because we have refused to obey
the command to love one another.

Sure, we may profess with our
mouths to love, but it is not in our
hearts.

Those things that are in the hearts
of people will manifest themselves in
the lives of the people.

God has not left us to make up a
definition of love but he has given us
his love. Love is kind and patient,
never jealous, boastful, proud, or rude.

Love isn't selfish or quick tem-
pered. It doesn't keep a record of
wrongs that others do. Love rejoices in
the truth, but not in evil. Love is always
supporting, loyal, hopeful, and trust-
ing. Love never fails. (1 Cor. 13:4-8)

Yes, love never fails. However, we
do very often fail to love. If racial rec-
onciliation is to take place we must re-
examine the love that we say we have
to see if we are loving others as Christ
has loved us.

Unconditionally.

Mississippians reappointed for IMB Latin work

RICHMOND, Va. — Ronald H. (Ron) Ballard and M. Sue Wilson Ballard have joined the nearly 4,200 International Mission Board (IMB) workers sharing Christ in 127 countries among 336 ethnic people groups.



Sue and Ron Ballard

The Ballards were reappointed as representatives by the IMB Jan. 20 during a service at Cottage Hill Church, Mobile, Ala.

The new workers will fill diverse job assignments from starting churches to using sports, education, and business as tools of ministry.

In 1997 IMB workers helped lead 283,100 people to Christ and baptism. They and their overseas partners started 2,451 churches and reported a record 4.11 million members in 41,521 churches overseas.

The Ballards will live in Mexico. In 1880, Mexico became the first Latin American country where Southern Baptist representatives were assigned to work. He will start and develop churches and she will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries.

Since 1990 he has been the director of missions for the

Carroll-Montgomery Association in Winona. They are members of Carrollton Church.

He was pastor of Union Hall Church, Brookhaven, from 1987 to 1990. They were IMB workers in Paraguay from 1976 to 1984.

Born in East St. Louis, Ill., Ron Ballard is the son of Mary Viola Ballard of Start, La., and the late Otha Ballard. He considers Carrollton his hometown and Carrollton Church his home church.

He received the associate of arts degree from Clarke College, Newton; the bachelor of arts degree from William Carey College, Hattiesburg; the master of divinity degree from New Orleans Seminary; and the doctorate of ministry degree from Reformed Theological Seminary in Jackson. He also received clinical pastoral education training

from East Mississippi State Hospital in Meridian.

Born in DeWitt, Ark., Sue Ballard is the daughter of Lois Wilson of DeFuniak Springs, Fla., and the late Dewey Wilson, Sr. She considers Carrollton Church her home church.

She received the bachelor of science degree from Mississippi College in Clinton and also attended William Carey College.

She was an elementary teacher for the Winona Public Schools and for the Brookhaven Public Schools.

THE
SECOND
FRONT PAGE

THE BAPTIST
Record

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Churches warned to prepare for lawsuits

By Tim Nicholas
MBCB Communications Director

Keeping your church out of court is getting harder to do, so churches must take action to lessen vulnerability to lawsuits, according to leaders of conferences on that topic attended by about 145 people in Jackson on Jan. 22 and Tupelo on Jan. 23.

Principal speakers for "Keeping Your Church Out of Court," sponsored by several convention agencies and associations, are partners in the Fort Worth law firm of Bourland, Smith, Wall, and Wenzel.

The law firm is general counsel to Tarrant Association in Houston, Texas, and trust/estate counsel to Baptist-affiliated Baylor University in Waco, Texas.

Sheila Korb noted that generally courts "will not interfere with 'religious decisions' of a church, particularly when based on the Word of God."

However, Korb said churches must adhere to federal, state, and local statutes in order to keep privileges churches already have, and she

observed that the church has fewer friends outside its walls than in earlier days.

For instance, Korb described a group that has been visiting churches in the Houston area with "the agenda to cause churches to lose their federal tax exemption." She said in two cases the state attorney general did investigate but dropped both cases.

Speaking on church organization, Korb explained reasons for a church to become incorporated. She said incorporating:

- offers clearer rules of governance.
- more often than in the past, business transactions need incorporation.
- incorporating offers a clearer distinction between the church and its individual members, and this distinction may become important when a lawsuit seeks to recover money from both the church and its individual members.

William Korb Jr., told participants that churches can take certain steps to reduce the risk of being a target in a personal injury claim. He said the legal definition of

negligence is an important one to know — "Failure to use care a reasonably prudent person would use under the same or similar circumstances."

Korb said Mississippi has a volunteer immunity statute which helps protect unpaid workers, but that protection does not extend to "grossly negligent or intentional misconduct."

Conference leaders cited the advantage of background checks for employees and explained under what circumstances the church is legally liable after suspicious conduct has been reported.

Michael Bourland told participants in a session on taxes and government compliance that "the church is deemed to be positive for the community experience, as are hospitals and colleges."

He said the government therefore grants tax exemption to churches because they are considered institutions "whose whole purpose is to do the public good."

The conferences were sponsored by the Church Administration/Pastoral Ministries (CAPM) and Church-Minister Relations and Annuity Departments of the

Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission; Metro Association in Jackson; and Lee Association in Tupelo.

"Keeping Your Church Out of Court" provides significant resources for churches and non-profit organizations. These materials are of great importance to every church.

"(The materials) provide information on how churches can carefully conduct their affairs under state and national laws, and do so in a manner that provides some legal insulation from lawsuits," said Julius Thompson, CAPM director.

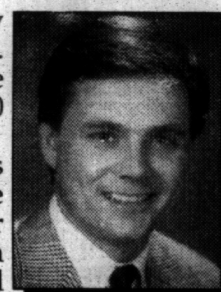
The conference textbook, adapted to Mississippi law by Mississippi College

(MC) School of Law assistant dean William R. Townsend, is available in loose leaf form for \$20 per copy from CAPM.

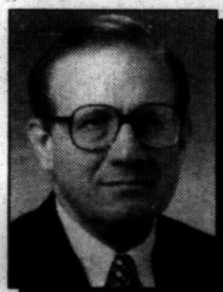
"Our special thanks to Bill Townsend and the MC School of Law for their diligent work in translating the original document to conform to the laws of Mississippi," Thompson said.

"So now churches must get it right, not only for legal reasons but also for moral reasons," Thompson stressed. "It is our hope that the materials will help the people of our state minister effectively in a society of laws."

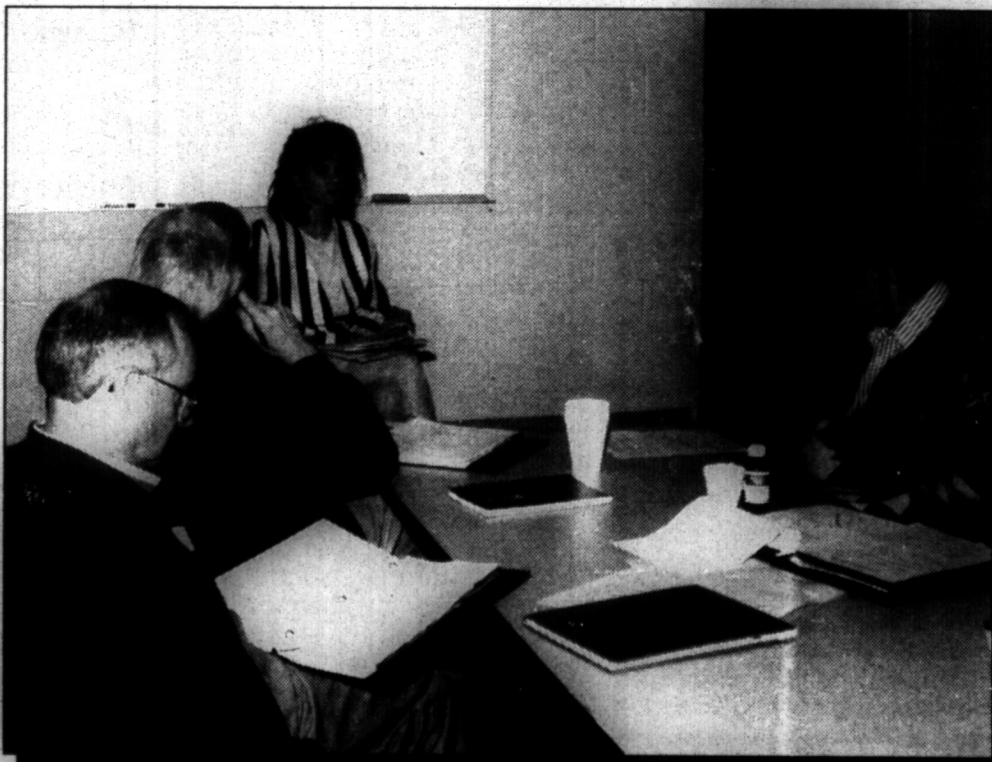
For more information or to order the textbook, contact CAPM at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.



Townsend



Bourland



OUT OF COURT — Sheila Korb, a partner in the Fort Worth law firm of Bourland, Smith, Wall and Wenzel, explains the fine points of keeping churches out of court during one of the two "Keeping Your Church Out of Court" conferences Jan. 22-23 in Jackson and Tupelo. (Photo by Tim Nicholas)

Holmes: fear keeps many suffering abuse

By Carl M. White
Associate Editor

Third in a series

Every nine seconds, a woman or child in this country is battered or abused at home. Each year more than 6,000 women and children die from abuse. Domestic violence is the leading cause of injury to women



ages 15 - 44, more common than automobile accidents, muggings, or rapes.

"Why do women stay in an abusive relationship?" is a frequently asked question. According to Elizabeth K. Holmes, consultant for women's and family issues at the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission, part of the answer lies in the question itself. "Why don't people ask, 'Why do men abuse women?'" she said.

There is one obvious reason women stay, Holmes said. "Fear! They know who this person is and what this person is

capable of. They just don't think they are in danger, they know they are."

There is a cycle to abuse known as the 'Abused Wife Syndrome,' Holmes said.

First is the tension-building phase. "Some call this the 'walking on eggs phase,'" she said. The wife and children learn to watch for the signs that the man is building toward an explosion.

Second is the battering incident. "It may be verbal, emotional, or physical. Whichever, it is a time of intimidation."

The violence does not have to involve an actual physical beating, Holmes said. The abuser could break furniture, punch a hole in the wall, or throw a lamp. The result is the same, however: intimidation and control.

The final phase is the make-up stage, or the honeymoon. "He'll bring her gifts, be sweet and gentle, and promise to never do it again, even while she has a cast on her arm," she said. "Most of these men can be charming. They possess great social skills."

In addition to fear, there are also social reasons women stay, Holmes said.

"Women have been taught that their true value is found in being a wife and a mother. Therefore to leave even an abusive marriage is an admission of failure as a wife and mother," she said.

Another reason women stay is because of the loss of power. "Most batterers isolate their spouses. They cut them off from friends, family, financial resources — from everything. They are isolated in every way."

"The emotional effect (of the cycle of abuse) is so dramatic that it results in rendering the woman so powerless she sees no way to provide for herself or her children," she said.

Research indicates that

women in abusive relationships, who do leave are at a 75% greater risk of being killed by the batterer than those who stay. Yet, when they stay they are also endangered.

"Statistics show that a woman is more likely to be killed when trying to leave than at any other time. That is why planning is so important," Holmes said.

This is also why locations of shelters for abused women and children are confidential and protected by strict laws.

One agency in central Mississippi that provides emergency shelter and related recovery services for families is The Resource Center Network (RCN). John Kendrick, a bivocational pastor, is associate director of RCN.

"The typical client at RCN is a white female, age 35-45 with a high school or junior college education and 2.65 children. She married well and spent most of her adult years raising children, not working."

"Thus, she has no marketable skills or job experience and no source of income," Kendrick said.

"When they come to us the husband cuts them off — zilch, zero, nothing!" he said. "We have to provide them virtually everything: food, shelter, clothes, counseling, re-education, life skills training, and job training."

Domestic abuse is at its heart an education problem, Kendrick said.

"You take a kid who his whole life is beaten, abused, and his family is involved



Holmes

in alcohol or drugs, and he is educated to that style of living. He knows nothing but violence as a way of life.

"He goes to the movies and watches TV and he sees the same thing. He reads a book or looks at a magazine and he sees the same thing. Our society has portrayed and accepted a certain level of violence as normal," Kendrick said.

The result of this acceptance is a lack of any outcry from the public when, according to the FBI, every nine seconds a woman and/or her children are subject to domestic violence, Kendrick said.

"When it happens to a Nicole Brown-Simpson, society takes notice. When Jane Doe next door is assaulted and dies violently, and is just as dead as Nicole Brown-Simpson, no one knows about it," Kendrick said.

RCN is involved in reduction and preventive strategies, going into schools and trying to teach children that violence is not an acceptable way to handle problems.

"If education is the problem, then re-education is part of the solution," Kendrick pointed out.

For more information on domestic violence contact Holmes at the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

Kendrick can be contacted at the Resource Center Network, P.O. Box 6302, Pearl, MS 39288-6302. Telephone: (601) 932-4198, or toll-free outside of Jackson (800) 266-4198.

Next week: Most people are surprised to discover the role religion plays in abusive situations.

Leader meets Israeli P.M.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Morris H. Chapman, president and chief executive officer of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee and other evangelical leaders attended a meeting Jan. 19 with the Israeli prime minister in Washington.

Chapman told Baptist Press that when the invitation was issued to meet Netanyahu, "I was delighted to accept. Most Southern Baptists, as do most evangelicals, have a long record of appreciation for and support of Israel."

BEHAVIORS OF MEN WHO BEAT THEIR WIVES

If a man exhibits three or more of these behaviors, he is prone to violence:

JEALOUS — Is he suspicious if you are late, or does he accuse you of flirting? Is he jealous of time spent with family, friends, or children?

ISOLATION — Does he try to keep you isolated, cutting you off from friends and family?

CONTROLLING BEHAVIOR — Does he try to keep control of all the money or keep you from leaving the house? Does he take the car keys?

QUICK INVOLVEMENT — Did you know the man less than six months before becoming engaged or living together?

PAST RECORD OF ABUSE — Has he battered other women?

BLAMING OTHERS — Does he make excuses or blame you or others for his problems and mistakes? Does he blame others for his feelings? ("You make me angry all the time!")

QUICK TEMPER — Is he easily insulted? Does he rant and rave about injustices? Does he blame others for being asked to help with chores?

CRUELTY TO ANIMALS AND CHILDREN — Does he whip the two-year-old until the child cries? Does he beat the family pet? He may not want the children in the room all evening while he's home.

"PLAYFUL" USE OF FORCE DURING SEX — Does he "playfully" throw you around or hold you down during sex? Does he sulk or get angry to manipulate you into having sex?

UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS — Does he expect you to take care of all his needs, being wife, mother, nurse, maid, etc.?

RIGID SEX ROLES — Does he see women as less intelligent and unable to be a whole person without a relationship? ("No one would have you but me.") Does he expect you to stay at home and obey him?

INTIMIDATION — Does he hit, throw, or break things? Batterers often break things to punish or terrorize a woman into submission.

VERBAL ABUSE — Does he say cruel things, criticize you or embarrass you in front of others? Does he say that you can't get along with him?

THREATS OF VIOLENCE — Does he make threats to try and control you?

FORCE DURING ARGUMENTS — Does he use force during an argument?

Source: Violence in Society: Resources for Help
Compiled by Hope Eavenson

Enrollment surpasses 10,000 at seminaries

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — Combined student enrollment for the 1997 fall semester at Southern Baptists' six seminaries surpassed the 10,000 mark, with only one of the schools reporting a decline in enrollment, seminary officials report.

Total enrollment stands at 10,090, an increase of 335 students and a 3.4% increase over the 1996 fall enrollment of 9,755. Enrollment at Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) seminaries accounts for approximately 14% of all students pursuing theological education in the United States and Canada, based on a comparison of statistics from a recent accrediting agency report.

The SBC seminaries officially compare fall-to-fall enrollment statistics based on the "non-duplicating headcount" of students enrolled in basic degree programs, pre-baccalaureate programs and classes for academic credit.

The largest percentage increase was

enjoyed again by Southeastern Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C., with 1,495 students, 10.5% more than 1996.

Its second consecutive year of record fall enrollments, Southeastern enrolled 142 more students than the previous year.

Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky., increased its enrollment by 9.6%, with a total of 1,801 students.

Southern Baptists' oldest seminary enrolled 158 more students than the 1996 fall semester.

Midwestern Seminary, Kansas City, Mo., reported an 8% increase, with 696 students enrolled, 53 more than the previous year.

At New Orleans Seminary, enrollment increased 5.31%, with 1,904 students enrolled, 96 more than the previous year.

Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, Southern Baptists' largest seminary and one of the largest Protestant seminaries in the world, saw its enrollment go up 3%, for a total of 3,166 students, 89 more than 1996.

Golden Gate Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., was the only school to report a decrease in enrollment.

With an enrollment of 1,028 this fall, 15% less than 1996, Golden Gate dipped by 192 students.

Its first decrease in recent years, seminary officials attribute the decline in enrollment primarily to not offering two special classes in the seminary's music program and leadership transitions in the Ethnic Leadership Development program.

Although an approximate comparison, a recent report of the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) in the United States and Canada indicates the 1997 fall semester enrollment of the six SBC seminaries is about 14% of all 233 schools accredited by ATS.

The 1996-1997 "Fact Book on Theological Education" reports 1996 student enrollment in all schools accredited by ATS at a total of 68,702.

SBTS journal examines education

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — As the debate simmers over what makes a Christian college uniquely Christian, the third issue of The Southern Baptist Journal of Theology has entered the fray with a call for biblically grounded Christian higher education.

Contributors, including two Baptist college presidents, say such education should equip students in every field of study to engage the culture with a distinctively Christian worldview. The journal is published by Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

Subscription information may be obtained at (800) 626-5525, ext. 4413.

'97 AAEO to post record for fifth consecutive year

SHOCCO SPRINGS, Ala. (BP) — For the fifth year in a row, Southern Baptists gave a record amount to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering (AAEO).

The year-end total for the 1997 offering was \$41,060,000,

according to Bob Reccord, president of the North American Mission Board (NAMB), and Dellanna O'Brien, executive director of Woman's Missionary Union (WMU).

The Southern Baptist

Convention (SBC) mission leaders jointly announced the news Jan. 13 to WMU's executive board during its annual meeting in Shocco Springs, Ala. Reccord credited WMU leaders across the country with successfully promoting the offering which was \$1.5 million, or 4%, above the previous year.

"In the midst of massive changes in the SBC last year, you did not let the Annie Armstrong Offering fall through the cracks," Reccord said. "When things were up in the air, you kept plugging and accomplished a phenomenal feat for North American missions. Thank you."

WMU initiated a national offering to support SBC missionaries in the United States in 1895. In 1903, the offering was named in honor of WMU's first corresponding secretary.

Nearly \$700 million has been given to the offering during its 102-year history.

The 1998 AAEO, which will be conducted in SBC churches this spring, will support the work of 5,000 missions personnel in the U.S. and Canada, most of whom are jointly appointed with state conventions.

More than one-third of NAMB's income is derived from the offering, 100% of which goes to the mission field to start new Southern Baptist churches, support Christian ministries and fund direct evangelism efforts.

During his report, Reccord assured WMU leaders that NAMB leadership wants to maintain a close working relationship between the agencies.



RECCORD ON RECORD — North American Mission Board president Bob Reccord (right) asked Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) executive director Dellanna O'Brien to announce the total for the 1997 Annie Armstrong Easter during his report to the WMU executive board. The year-end total for the 1997 offering was \$41,060,000. Reccord credited WMU leaders across the country with successfully promoting the offering which was \$1.5 million, or 4%, above the previous year. (WMU photo by Teresa Dickens)

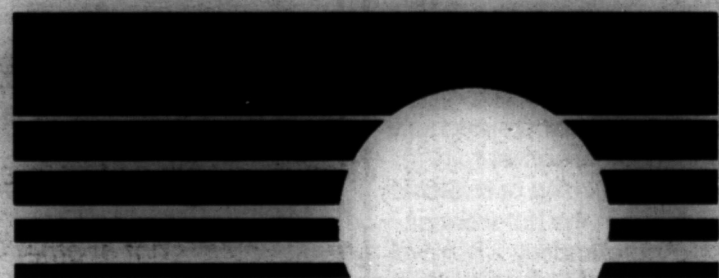
1998 Season of North American Missions

North American Mission Study
February 15-18, 1998

Week of Prayer for North American Missions
March 1-8, 1998

North American Missions Day in Sunday School
March 8, 1998

Annie Armstrong Easter Offering National Goal
\$42 million



Start Something New
MINISTRY

WMU BYLAW Change Proposed

In the annual meeting of the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) in Hattiesburg on March 16-17, WMU will vote on a proposed change in Article VIII, Section 3 of the Bylaws, adding the words "executive director" and making the bylaw read:

"Special meetings may be called by the president, executive director, or shall be called at the request of at least one-third of the voting members of the Executive Board."

For more information, contact WMU at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1851.

Draper lauds 'remarkable' BSSB ministry

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Southern Baptist Sunday School Board President James T. Draper Jr. commended employees in a Jan. 16 chapel meeting for their "tremendous efforts" during the 1996-97 year — efforts that resulted in "remarkable" ministry and business-related developments for the board.

"We have experienced a remarkable financial turnaround," Draper said, "in large part due to greatly improved products that are meeting the spiritual needs of churches and individuals."

Draper said the board attempted last year to be more proactive in clarifying its role as a ministry and a business. "We have characteristics of both."

"We recognize that we are a business, but our purpose is ministry. If our resources and services do not assist in transforming lives for eternity, we are not achieving our God-given purpose for existence."

Financially, the Sunday School Board ended the year with record revenues of \$284.1 million, an increase of \$23 million or 8.8% over the previous year.

Provided from Operations, monies available after expenses, were \$14.4 million, an increase of \$4.6 million or 47.3% over 1995-96. Also, the board's one remaining debt was paid off during the year.

"We've had a great year that only God's blessings and assurance could help us receive," Ted Warren, executive vice president and chief operating officer, said.

Noting all three strategic business units had excellent years, Warren identified highlights for the year.

For the Church Growth Group, he cited reception by churches and individuals of redesigned Vacation Bible School materials and Beth Moore's new discipleship resource for women, "A Heart Like His."

Warren noted the Retail Group experi-

enced the greatest revenue growth in history, 14%, while acquiring two stores, opening six new stores, relocating eight and remodeling two.

The Retail Group also launched the Ministers Discount Plan.

He praised the Trade Publishing Division for the first positive financial contribution since the 1992 reorganization and cited new lines of children's resources and inspirational gifts.

Also, Broadman & Holman had five best-sellers during the year, two Gold Medallion winners (awards presented by the Evangelical Christian Publishers Association) and four advertising impact awards.

Revenue for Glorieta and Ridgecrest Baptist conference centers represented a 3% increase over the previous year, Warren said, with conference centers involving more than 300 volunteers in varied activities.

The Office of Corporate Affairs was responsible for coordinating the new name process for the board during the year, he noted.

Warren said overhead components (areas that do not generate revenue but operate on funds allocated from strategic business units) are becoming a decreasing percentage of the board's budget, a positive factor.

For 1997-98, he noted the budget calls for a revenue increase of \$42 million or 15%. "We have set for ourselves a major milestone."

With three years of positive results, Warren said the spiritual challenge for all employees is "not to turn our eyes away from the Lord. We need to be found trustworthy."

Meanwhile, Draper highlighted some of the board's ministry accomplishments throughout the year. They included:

◆ Toll-free LeaderCare line. Employees

are receiving as many as 25 to 35 calls a day from pastors, staff members, and churches experiencing problems.

◆ Increased contributions to state conventions, with the smaller and newer states receiving greater increases to start new churches and strengthen existing ones.

◆ Broadman & Holman's focus on making a difference in people's lives through resources.

◆ Mailing of the "Mormon Puzzle" video to every Southern Baptist church, all Southern Baptist colleges and university and to the six seminaries in preparation for June's annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Salt Lake City.

Draper said once-in-a-lifetime opportunities are presenting themselves so fast to the Sunday School Board that he sometimes feels like a "skier in front of an avalanche."

Also, he said, "we faced challenges last year we've never faced before. Perhaps our greatest challenge, internally and externally, has been Vista (conversion of more than 25 outdated computer systems)."

While Vista has been challenging, good things have come from it, Draper said. One, which would not have been possible with the systems Vista replaced, is Internet ordering.

As of Friday, Jan. 16, more than 3,500 customers had been assigned PIN numbers and can place orders over the Internet 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

With new systems in place, quality of resources dramatically improved, and positive ministry and financial results, Draper said the challenge for the board is not in finding opportunities but in choosing which to pursue.

"We must review the opportunities before us and, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, seek to make the best possible choices and move with deliberate speed to take advantage of those we select. We exist for the purpose of bringing the Word of God to the people who live around the world."

IBS unveils evangelism initiative

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (ABP) — The International Bible Society (IBS) has released a new translation of the New Testament and Psalms in a language spoken by 1.5 million people in Ghana.

The new translation in Dangme, one of 72 languages spoken in Ghana, required 16 years to complete. It is the first new Bible translation in the language since 1909.

It is also the first of 80 Bible and New Testament translations planned during the next six years in the IBS "Let There Be Light" global evangelization initiative.

BSU summer missions applications set record

The Office of Student Work had received a record 192 applications for summer missions by the Jan. 19 deadline, according to Weaver McCracken, associate director of Student Work for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB).

"This is approximately 70 more than we have ever received in the past," McCracken said. "This represents an astounding 56% increase in volunteers for this program over what we have ever received before."

In 1997 Mississippi Baptist Student Unions (BSU) sent a record 111 students on summer missions.

According to McCracken, they had budgeted to send 125 students in 1998 — "What we thought to be a challenging number at the time," he said. Now they are hoping to be able to raise the additional funds needed to send approximately 175 students to the mission field.

"To do this, we will need roughly an additional \$40,000," he said.

The BSUs on the college campuses in Mississippi raise the funds for summer missions. The student missionaries receive no Cooperative Program funds.

"Our campuses have responded positively to this challenge," McCracken said.

For more information about BSU summer missions contact the Department of Student Work of the MBCB at P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800; or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

CML workshop scheduled

Copiah and Lincoln Associations will hold a Church Media Library (CML) Workshop on February 21 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Howard Johnson Motel on Brookway Boulevard in Brookhaven.

Instructor for the CML workshop will be Peggy Tacon, media library director at Dauphin Way Church in Mobile, Ala. She will teach the new promotion book entitled, "Creating Promotion that Communicates."

Reservation fee is \$3 per person, which includes lunch and snacks. Reservations are required and should be mailed to Lincoln Baptist Association, Attention Church Media Library, P.O. Box 363, Brookhaven, MS 39601-0363. Deadline for reservations is February 16, 1998.

For more information, contact Deborah Quinly at (601) 894-2731/office or (601) 894-4001/home; or Agatha Sandidge at (601) 833-8111/office or (601) 833-5162/home.

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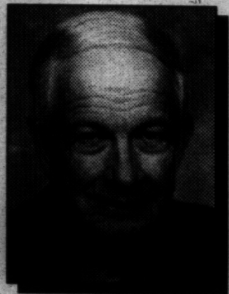
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MC announces new trustees, officers for '98

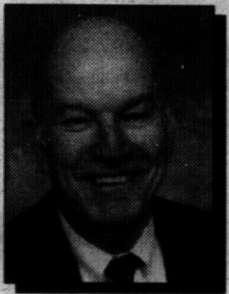
Mississippi College (MC) in Clinton has announced the selection of three new members to the Baptist-affiliated school's board of trustees:

◆ Donald E. Phillips of Brandon, retired president and chief executive officer of Pitman-Moore, Inc., based in Northbrook, Ill. A 1954 graduate of MC, Phillips presently serves as deacon at First Church, Jackson.



Phillips

◆ C. Chandler Clover of Jackson, founder of three private hospitals in the Jackson area and former corporate vice-pres-



Clover

ident for St. Dominic Health Services, Inc., in Jackson. Clover is a member and former chairman of deacons at First Church, Jackson.

◆ Jane Mangum Hederman of Jackson, former MC assistant dean of women and former dean of women at North Georgia College in Dahlonega, Ga. She is a 1967 graduate of MC, and serves as Sunday School teacher and Vision Committee member at First Church, Jackson.



Hederman

The trustees' three-year terms on the 24-member board began on January 1.

MC board of trustees officers for 1998 have also been elected:

◆ Chairman — Frank Gunn, pastor of First Church, Biloxi.

◆ Vice-chairman — Bernard Ebbers, founder of WorldCom,

Inc., in Clinton and member of First Church, Brookhaven.

◆ Secretary — Paul Moak Jr.,

Jackson automobile dealer and member of First Church, Jackson.

Women's Evangelism Conf. slated Feb. 6-7

The Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) and the Evangelism Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) is sponsoring a Women's Evangelism Conference, Feb. 6-7 at Woodland Hills Church, Jackson.

Registration opens at 6 p.m. on Feb. 6, and at 8 a.m. on Feb. 7. The conference concludes at noon on Saturday.

Cost for the conference is \$20 with lunch or \$10 without lunch provided. Child care is provided free of charge.

Under the theme "Come and Share with Me," the conference will feature:

◆ Keynote speaker Jaye Martin of First Church, Houston, Texas, who is the Women's Evangelism Consultant for the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board (NAMB) in Atlanta.

◆ Music by Myrna Loy Hedgepeth, a soloist and music evangelist from Colonial Heights Church in Jackson.

The conference also features three individual workshops that focus on personal evangelism and family issues from a woman's

perspective.

One workshop, led by Ed Deuschle, consultant in the evangelism department at MBCB, will cover the subject of lifestyle evangelism.

Another workshop is titled "Event Evangelism — How to use tea time as a way to minister and witness to others," and is led by Laura Leathers of Pickens.

The final workshop focuses on how to keep children from the occult and is led by Eunice Bryant of Jackson, an approved worker in interfaith witness.

"This represents the first joint effort of this kind between the Evangelism Department and the WMU," said Sonny Adkins, Director of Evangelism.

For more information, contact Edna Ellison, consultant in the Mississippi WMU Department. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.



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Merrill Moore dies at age 93

MARYVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Merrill D. Moore Sr., the first executive director-treasurer of the former Stewardship Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, died Jan. 16 at a health-care center in Maryville, Tenn. He was 93.

A native of Senatobia, he was a graduate of Mississippi College and Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky. He was ordained in 1924 at First Church, Tupelo.

Moore was preceded in death by his wife. Survivors include a son, Merrill Moore Jr. of Knoxville, Tenn., two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Services were held Jan. 19 in Knoxville, with burial in Sherwood Memorial Gardens.



Ken White (left) was licensed to the ministry by Shiloh Church, Lafayette Association, on Sept. 14. **Ronnie Mayes** (right) is the interim pastor. White is a student at Blue Mountain College and is available for supply preaching. He can be contacted at 16 CR 431, Oxford, MS 38655, or call (601) 236-7109.

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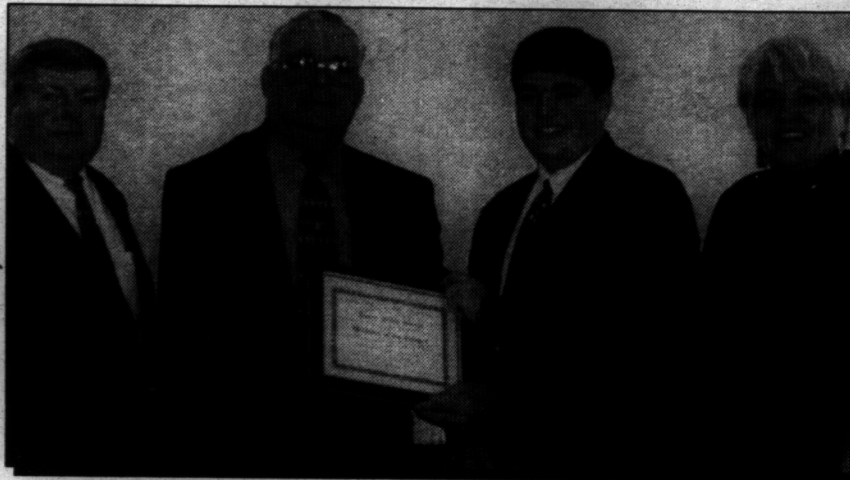
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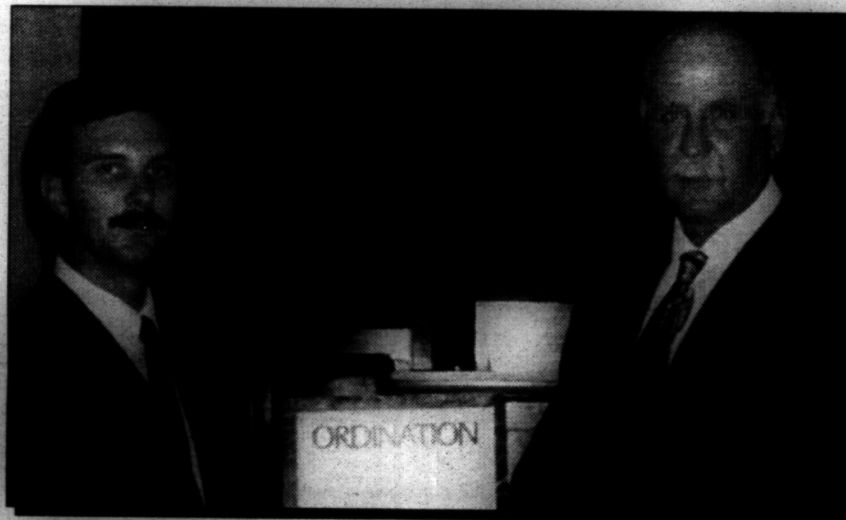
NAMES IN THE NEWS

I. L. Hill, 79, died Jan. 26 at Mississippi State Veterans Home, following an extended illness. Funeral services were held in Forest on Jan. 28. Hill, a member of Ridge Church, Forest, was a pastor in Mississippi for 40 years. Survivors include his wife Josie Hill of Pearl; daughters,

Lynne Brown of Cleveland, Ohio, Sandra Jones of Forest, and Joan Singleterry of Pearl; five sisters; four brothers; seven grandchildren; and five great grandchildren. Memorials may be sent to the Mississippi Heart Association, P. O. Box 16808, Jackson, MS 39236.



Darren James Dickens (center) was licensed to the ministry by Bethany Church, Prentiss, on Nov. 30. He is a freshman at Blue Mountain College. Pictured with Dickens are his parents James Earl (far left) and Deborah Estes Dickens (right) of Prentiss. Richard Green (second from left) is interim pastor.



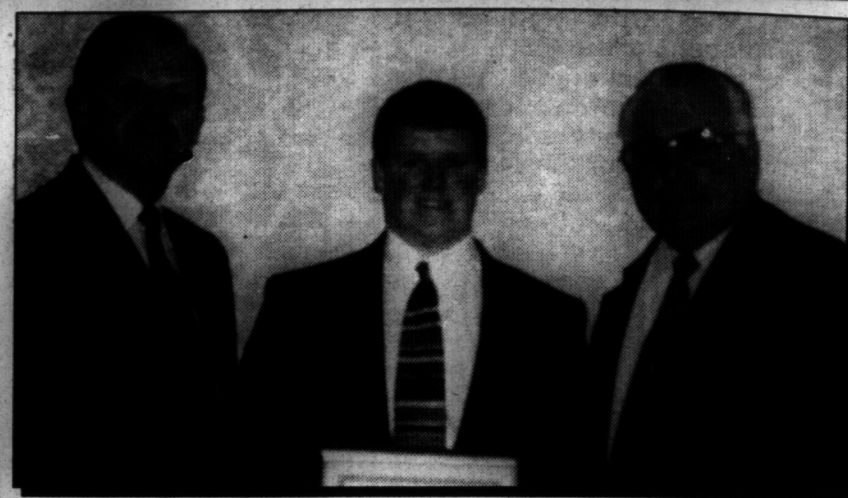
Billy Deaton was ordained as a deacon at Richmond Church, Tupelo, on Sept. 21. Pictured with Deaton is Sean K. Tutor Sr., pastor.

STAFF CHANGES

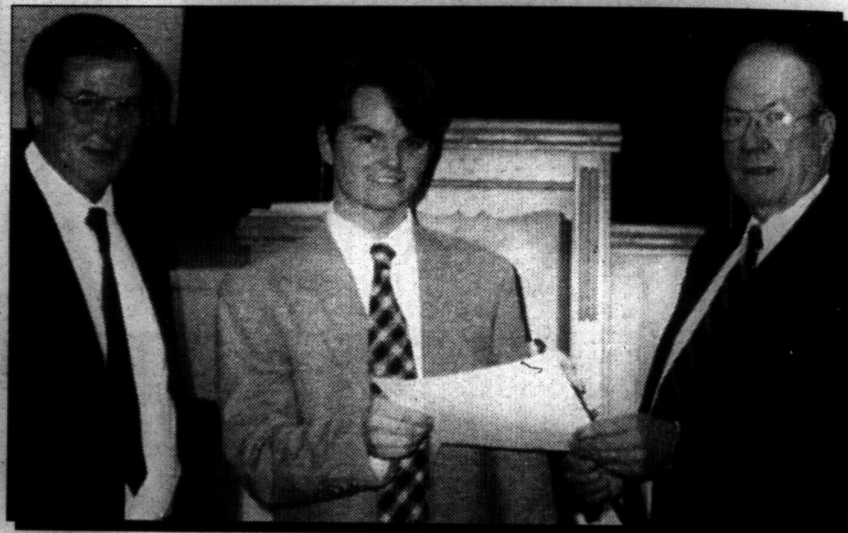
James E. Griffith has retired from New Bethel Church, Neshoba Association, and is available for supply or interim pastor. He may be reached at 803 West Church Street, Newton MS 39345 or telephone (601) 683-9970.

D. W. Green, pastor of Bond Church, Neshoba County, for six years, has announced his retirement as of Jan. 1. His former pastorate was at Edwards Church, Metro Association, for 23 years. Green is available for supply preaching or other activities, his address is Rt. 5, Box 105, Union MS 39365.

Looxahoma Church, Senatobia, has called **Chris Huffman** as minister of youth effective Jan. 4. A native of Memphis, Huffman is a senior at Crichton College, Memphis. He previously served at Central Church, Memphis.



Andy Wayne Chance (center) was licensed to the ministry by Bethany Church, Prentiss, on Nov. 9. Chance is a freshman at Mississippi State University. He is the son of Dwight L. Chance, left, and the late Dorothy Jackson Chance of Silver Creek. Pictured at right is Richard Green, interim pastor.



Terry Rodgers, son of Carol and Allen Rodgers of New Albany, was recently licensed to preach the gospel by Glenfield Church, New Albany. Pictured (from left) are Buddy Williams, chairman of deacons; Rodgers; and Horace Thomas, pastor. Rodgers is available for supply or other preaching appointments. He can be reached at (601) 534-9654.

REVIVAL DATES

Friendship, Aberdeen: Feb. 15-18; Sunday, 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; **Bob Pitman**, Memphis, Tenn., evangelist; **John Bailey**, Moss Bluff, La., music; **Todd Bowen**, pastor.

Simpson County Senior Adult Revival: Feb. 15-18; Harrisville Church; Sunday, 10 a.m. followed by a luncheon;

Mon.-Wed., 11 a.m. followed by covered dish luncheon; **James Messer**, guest speaker; **H. B. Miller**, music.

The Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention is seeking an **Event Planner for Glorieta Conference Center near Santa Fe, New Mexico**. This newly created position will design, develop and produce 25-30 enrichment events annually to meet the needs of our guests.

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BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS

Mississippi College (MC) will become the center of academic competition on Feb. 5-6, as approximately 1,500 of Mississippi's students convene on campus for the 24th annual Mississippi Science and Mathematics Tournament. The tournament is sponsored by the Departments of Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics, and Computer Science. Jerry Cannon, professor of Chemistry at MC is coordinator. For more information, call the Office of Public Relations at (601) 925-3239.

Mississippi College Institute for Christian Leadership will host Leonard I. Sweet on Feb. 10 from 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m., as he speaks on "What's Happening With The Church?" The event will be held in the B.C. Rogers Student Center. Sweet is currently vice president of Drew University and Dean of the Theological School in Madison, N.J. Tickets are \$15 for individuals and \$17.50 per couple. For more information or for reservations call (601) 925-3265.

The **Chevron Scholar** and recipient of the Chevron Companies award has been announced at William Carey College (WCC). Rogena Denese Black, a senior psychology major on the Coast campus of WCC, is the honoree. She is the daughter of Ernestine Black of Moss Point.

Forty-one students from William Carey College received the Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges recognition as national outstanding leaders. Students named are: Rebecca Arthur, Columbia; Rebecca Baker, Columbia; Meta Clair Blanshard, Hernando; Jon Celoria, Mark Celoria, and Matt Celoria, all of Smithdale; Wendy Clark, Petal; Jason Coker, New Augusta; Christie Crabtree, Slidell, La.; Lorraine Ezell, Pensacola, Fla.; Richard Mayfield, Fort Walton, Fla.; Jennie Morgan, Smithdale; Tangie Moudy, Puckett; Jackie Outley, Hattiesburg; Frederick O'Neal Gregg, Hattiesburg; Melody Hanberry, Sumrall; Raymond Jerome Lewis, Vicksburg; Jaime Mallery, Covington, La.; Amanda Strickland, Pascagoula; Angela Tillman, Vancleave; Priscilla Walker, Hattiesburg; Kelly Hennington, Petal; Clinton Shane Overstreet, Laurel; and Michelle Love Pearce, Petal.

Connie Roberts, assistant professor of music at William Carey College, was elected president of the National Association of Teachers of Singing Mississippi chapter. Roberts serves as Auditions Chair of the Collegiate Vocal Division of the MS Music Teachers Association supervising the repertoire of entrants in voice categories and procuring

adjudicators and clinicians for the state competition.

Blue Mountain College (BMC) Baptist Student Union (BSU) students held their annual Mid-Winter Retreat at Camp Lake Stephens in Oxford. The theme was "What Christ Wants" in connection with WCW (World Championship Wrestling). Some students at BMC are wrestling fans. Randy Sims, minister to youth, college students, and singles at Southside Church, Huntsville, Ala., was the guest speaker. Disciple's Cross, the BSU Praise Band, led the group in worship



Jason Ruiz of Gulfport, was recently recognized as a 1997 Trustee Scholarship recipient at William Carey College (WCC). Ruiz is a junior communication major. He is a member of the nationally ranked Crusader Forensics Team. Pictured with Ruiz is Larry Kennedy, interim president of WCC.



Suzanne Dubose (left center), teacher at Oak Grove High School, works with elementary school student Paul Macias during a dramatic art workshop at the Creativity Write-Down Workshop, hosted by William Carey College (WCC) Center for Creative Scholars. Dubose is a graduate of the theatre department at WCC.

William Carey College Speech and Debate Team (Forensics) placed first overall at the Gorlock Gala Tournament at Webster University in St. Louis, Mo. recently. The Crusader team also placed first in Pi Kappa Delta (forensics honorary) sweepstakes, individual events sweepstakes, debate sweepstakes, and traveling sweepstakes.

Blue Mountain College Baptist Student Union (BSU) held a training seminar for its ministry teams on Jan. 13. These teams are available for revivals, youth lock-ins, youth fellowships, and Disciple Now. The revival teams consist of preacher, music, pianist, testimonies, and youth activities. If you are interested in having any of these teams in your churches, contact the BSU at (601) 685-4771 ext. 37.



Drawn Together (above photo) and **Fishermen** (left photo) are traveling music ensembles for the Mississippi State University Baptist Student Union (BSU). Both groups are available for worship services, concerts, or youth activities. For more information or to contact one of the groups, call (601) 323-5761. Pictured are Drawn Together (from left) Michael Winstead, Morton; Travis Clay, Mathiston; Elizabeth Blake, Starkville; Lori McElhenney, Columbus; Hailey Stevens, Mantee; and Chuck Ellison, Houston. Fishermen (from left) are Wesley Burgess, Jackson; Josh Whitten, Florence; Tara Wood, Verona; Julie Connerley, Brownsville, Tenn.; Elaina Dean, Starkville; Christian Williams, Starkville; Liza Tomlinson, Jackson; Kyle Watson, Clewiston, Fla.; and Brian Brasher, Starkville.

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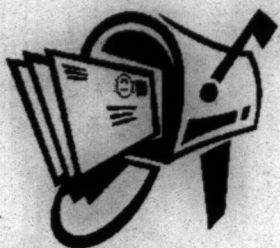
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Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

MUSICAL FEAST

Editor:

As I sit here in my office today after returning from our state evangelism conference, my mind is again reeling with memories of being escorted into the very portals of Heaven!

Of course I'm speaking of the tremendous time of worship that I experienced at the coliseum on Monday evening.

I would like to use this means to say "thank you" to Graham Smith, Sonny Adkins, Jim Futral, all of you wonderful choirs and orchestras, each of you that shared moving testimonies of how God was indeed with you during those trying times, and of course to Don Moen for allowing God to use your talents to compose such a magnificent collection.

I have been a part of many musical presentations, and have listened to many more but I have never been so moved and led in such a meaningful time of worship as I was when "God With Us" was presented.

As a music evangelist, I'm constantly out there giving of myself and sharing our music ministry with congregations in our state as well as others.

Seldom am I fed musically with such songs of praise and worship from some of the best musicians in the world as I was on Monday night!

Truly a unique presentation of the Gospel! To God be the Glory, great things he has done!
Ronnie Cottingham
Jus' Jesus Ministries, Inc.
Agricola

SEARCHING FOR PASTORS

Editor:

Calvary Church in Durant is trying to locate former pastors (and interim pastors) or family members of former pastors or interim pastors.

We are looking specifically for the families of Ira Metts, Charles Beck, and Cecil Mulloy.

These men were either involved with Calvary Church or the development of Eastside Baptist Mission which later became Calvary Church.

If you know where these men or their families are, please contact me at the following address:

Celeste Truitt, church clerk
123 Montgomery St.
Durant, MS 39063

SHAME ON US

Editor:

Another Sanctity of Human Life Sunday has come and gone. Another 1.5 million babies have been senselessly slaughtered by abortion, and we've done nothing!

We deacons who sit in our

once-a-month meetings and try to figure out how to better serve our church, have done nothing!

We BYW members who sit around a monthly meal and plan wedding showers, have done nothing!

We Brotherhood members who have our monthly breakfast and talk about things we should

be doing, have done nothing!

We Promise Keepers who can amass millions of men to rally on Washington, DC for our own purposes, have done nothing for the cause of millions of innocent babies!

Shame on us. May God forgive us. May God have mercy on us.

Jim Bonds
Booneville



LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

I am a single Christian with deep financial problems, and my anxiety has caused a great deal of insecurity in my relationship with God. How do I overcome this?

You are focusing on the problem rather than the belief that God can help you through any crisis in your life. This in turn begins a downward spiral that culminates in despair, lack of confidence, and depletion of your faith. You have become overwhelmed and frustrated, and your anxiety has allowed this worldly burden to come between God and you. Nothing is too big for God to handle, and accepting that fact is a good place to start. Even though you may not feel his presence in your life right now, you know by faith and his Word that God will never leave you (Isa. 49:15-16). You are anxious because you have no plan to turn around your life. Control your finances, instead of allowing your finances to control you. Map out a plan with a Christian financial counselor who will understand both your financial and spiritual problems. You must also maintain your health in this time of high stress by exercising, eating

right, and staying in touch with your physician. Take your burdens to God in prayer, and then patiently await his answers.

Our pastor verbally abuses church staff members. Would it do any good to confront him, or should I just move on to another church?

This is an underlying reason when someone loses control and becomes verbally abusive. (Yes, pastors are human and sometimes lose control.) The outward reason may be whatever is going on at the moment, but be assured there is also an inner reason. Try to understand what is on your pastor's heart and mind. Study Matt. 18:15-17. In keeping with Scripture, you must approach your pastor in a Christian manner and express your concern. This should not be considered offensive or threatening, but if it is not well-received you must take the next scriptural step. If you are again rejected, this passage is clear on what must be done. Pray for guidance and be sure you have been faithful to our Savior's teachings before giving up on your pastor and your church.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

LOTTIE MOON GOALS REACHED



Wayside Church, Warren Association, set a goal for Lottie Moon Christmas Offering of \$800, but took in \$1,600. This is the first time that the church has ever doubled their original goal. Larry Haggard is pastor.

Magnolia Church, Laurel, set a goal of \$4,500 for Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, and a total of \$5,500.50 was received.

Terry Road Church, Jackson, set its goal for Lottie Moon Christmas Offering at \$2,700.

RA's and GA's of McAdams Church, McAdams, made and sold serving trays and contributed \$573.23 to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. With a goal of \$3,000, the total offering passed by \$130 on received was \$3,273.92. James Young is pastor. Dec. 21.

MS Positions Available

MINISTER OF MUSIC/YOUTH: Full time position. Benefits include new staff housing (3BR/2BA), and paid vacation. Resume and/or vocal tape should be sent to Ed Sanderson, Chair, Personnel Committee, 34 Peps Point Road, Hattiesburg, MS 39401.

MINISTER OF YOUTH/RECREATION: First Baptist Church, Purvis, MS. Prospect must be available at least 40 hours during summer months. The winter schedule can be a full time position or whatever hours correspond with his

availability. Send to Pastor: PO Box 246, Purvis, MS 39475.

PART-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC for Adult and Youth Choirs. Send resumes to Ronnie Clark, Ruleville Baptist Church, PO Box 187, Ruleville, MS 38771.

MINISTER OF YOUTH AND EDUCATION: First Baptist Church of Richton, MS. Music talent desirable. Resumes may be mailed to: Search Committee, PO Box 562, Richton, MS 39476.

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JUST FOR THE RECORD



Students from Jones County Junior College Baptist Student Union (BSU) raised \$1,050 to provide Christmas for seven children given to them by the Jones County Migrant Program. The students spent \$150 on each child purchasing toys and clothes. A party was held in the BSU center one afternoon after school with refreshments, games, and the Christmas story was told. "As they were about to leave, there were tears in the parents eyes as they thanked everyone for their love and generosity. Not only were the families blessed but even more so were the students who participated," said Larry Goff, BSU director.



Members of Mt. Vernon Church, Eupora, presented a Christmas play on Dec. 21. The cast (pictured) are Zachary Adkins, Phillip Stoner, Douglas Stoner, Chloe Rose Faulk, Billy Glen Salley, Russell Hood, Gail Edwards, Iva Ruth Faulk, Santa Claus, Garrett Oswalt, Megan Stoner, Emily Danko, Bryan Smith, Robert Watson, Sarah Oswalt, Lanell Adkins, Craig Oswalt, Ollie Griffin, Robert Stoner, Billy Salley, Harold Oswalt, and Jimmy Adkins. A meal was held in fellowship hall following the events of the evening. Tony Faulk is pastor.

Heaven's Gates and Hell's Flames, a dramatized real life presentation, will be presented at Harmony Church, Crystal Springs, Feb. 8-Feb. 10 at 7 p.m. nightly. For more information or for tickets (free), contact the church at (601) 892-1121 or 1749.

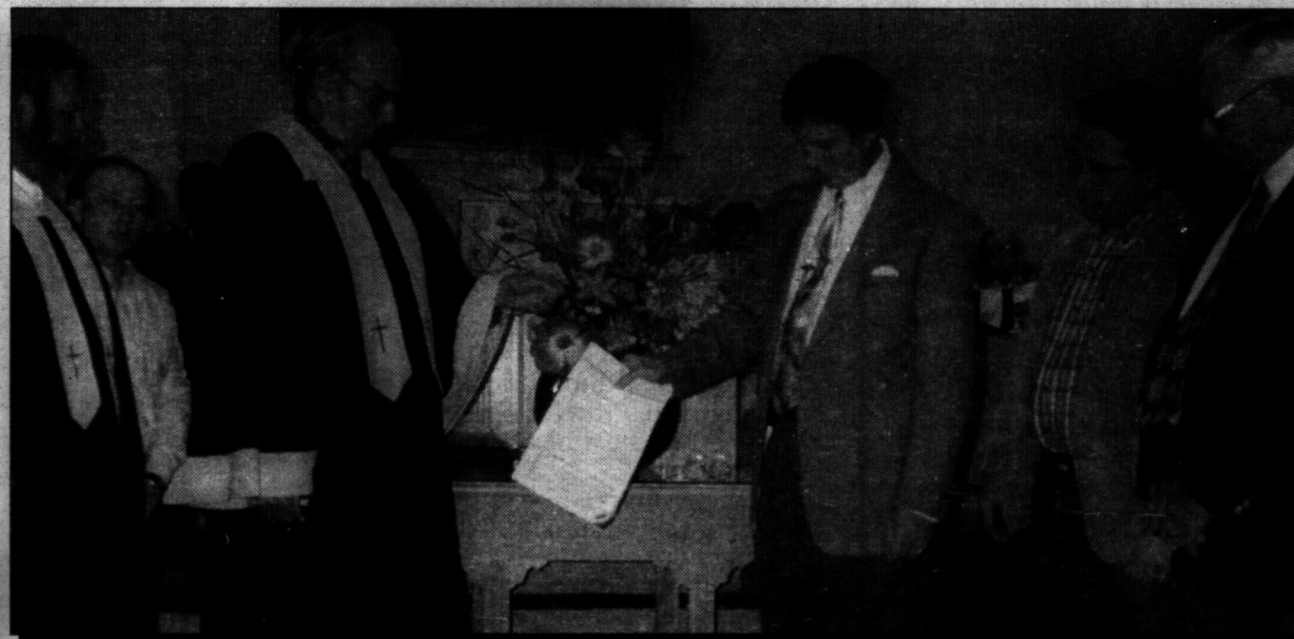
Pass Road Church, Gulfport, will hold its 7th annual Greater Gulf Coast Bible Conference, March 1-5. There will be three services beginning March 2-5 at 9, 10, and 11 a.m. Night services begin at 7 p.m. on March 1-5. Lunch and dinner will be served each day. The speakers will be Paul Tsika, Doug White, Jack Taylor, Dudley Hall, and Wade Trimmer. The praise and worship will feature Gerald and Cindy Simmons, The Balltzglers, Bille Kaye Tsika, and Dean and Gayna Forrest. For more information, call (228) 863-1697. Edgar Jackson, pastor, is conference director.

Como Church, Como, distributed 43 food baskets and 33 food packages to families in need during the Christmas Season. Bibles will be included in each food basket and clothes package distributed beginning in January. Andy Brasher is pastor.



Emmanuel Church, Grenada, will host a Women's Conference on Feb. 20-21. The times are 6:30 p.m. on Friday and 9 a.m.-2 p.m. on Saturday. The speaker will be Becky Freeman, author of "Worms In My Tea," "Marriage 911," and "Still Lickin' the Spoon." The charge of \$10 will include lunch on Saturday. Registration deadline is Feb. 15. Call (601) 226-5316 to register.

Adults and youth of Bethlehem Church, Morton, stand in front of the Abortion Clinic on State Street, Jackson, on Jan. 17. On this day one mother was convinced not to have an abortion by sidewalk counselors. Pictured with the group is Tanya Britton (back row, second from right), president of Right to Life of Jackson.



Highland Church, Crystal Springs, held a note burning ceremony for its newly purchased church van on Nov. 23. Pictured (from left) are Terry Rials; Danny Sims; Buck Pleasant; Mike Fort, pastor; Randy White; and Lenard Bagley. (composite photo)

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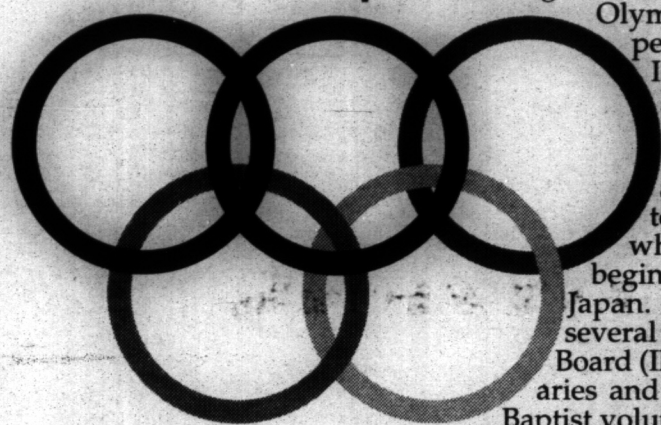
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Evangelism thrust set for Winter Olympics



NAGANO, Japan (BP and local reports) — The largest team at the 1998 Winter Olympics won't be competing for gold medals. It wants trophies for heaven. More than 350 Christian volunteers and full-time ministers are ready for work when the Olympics begins Feb. 7 in Nagano, Japan. The group includes several International Mission Board (IMB) missionaries and 60 Southern Baptist volunteers.

The teams will work in coffeehouses set up for evangelism, in hotel information booths, as garbage collectors, and as chaplains. Christians are to be the only religious group represented by chaplains in Nagano, a city with one of the largest Buddhist temples in the world.

"This is a great time for outreach," said Michael Fox, chaplain with Athletes in Action.

"We'll be having chaplains here from Russia, Switzerland, and Sweden, as well as Canada and the United States, since there will be athletes speaking various languages."

IMB missionaries see the Olympics as a perfect opportunity for the IMB to work with other Great Commission Christians to bring people worldwide to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Southern Baptist missionaries will cooperate with Campus Crusade for Christ, Athletes in Action, International Bible Society, InterVarsity, Youth With a Mission, and the American Bible Society.

One approach to reach athletes will be wide distribution of the "Jesus" film in video form.

"We've shipped 1,500 'Jesus' videos in multiple languages," Fox said. "We will give the videos to the athletes and officials in their language. Pray for openness on the part of the athletes to hear the gospel."

Southern Baptist volunteers from Georgia will be involved in the coffeehouse ministries and in singing and drama performances in the marketplace, said Tony Woods, IMB missionary and head of the Nagano

Olympic Evangelism Committee.

Tracts using a "More than Gold" theme printed in many languages will be distributed at all locations.

Trading pins, always hot collectors' items, will be affixed to cards detailing the plan of salvation in multiple languages.

Several evangelical churches in Japan have made their spaces available for special services throughout the Olympics.

A World Wide Web site (<http://members.aol.com/nagano98/index-e.htm>) will provide Internet users with information about the evangelism effort.

"Mega-events like the Winter Olympics bring people together that would not normally (come together)," said Mark Snowden, media consultant for the IMB.

"The Nagano sports evangelism outreach will serve as a catalyst for evangelism among many people groups for many months and possibly years."

Scores of Mississippi Baptists were closely involved in Atlanta International Missions, the Southern Baptist evangelization campaign during the 1996 100th anniversary Summer Olympiad in Atlanta and surrounding area.

The Road to Everlasting Life



God intends for all his children to live with him forever, but the road to everlasting life is blocked. To find that road, you must:

Admit that you are a sinner.

There is none righteous, not even one. (Rom. 3:10)

Accept God's love for you.

God demonstrates his own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. (Rom. 5:8)

Acknowledge Christ as Lord.

If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you shall be saved. (Rom. 10:9)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Mississippi Baptist Church for spiritual guidance.

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Homecomings

Grace, Philadelphia: Feb. 8, 11 a.m.; covered dish in fellowship hall, noon; singing, 1 p.m.; Judge Charles Pickering, Taylorsville, guest speaker; Dennis Duvall, pastor.

Staying Well Informed

Cardiac Rehabilitation: Coming Back from the Brink

Last July, a heart attack stunned 50-year-old Bill Coker. While enjoying a game of golf with his son, he noticed pain in his neck and shoulder. The next morning, he called his physician, who told him to get to the hospital right away. Physicians at Baptist Medical Center determined that Coker had experienced his second heart attack in eight years and scheduled him for an immediate quintuple bypass operation.

During his recovery from the operation, a member of Baptist's Heart Center approached him with a way of decreasing his risk for another heart attack—joining the cardiac rehabilitation program. Cardiac Rehabilitation is a comprehensive and rigorous program of exercise, diet and nutritional information provided by trained heart specialists. The goal is to get patients who have suffered from a heart attack or bypass surgery back into their lives and to help them adopt lifestyle habits that will help decrease their risk factors for another heart attack.

Cardiac rehab programs involve four components: exercise, education, counseling and behavioral change. Participants are encouraged to exercise regularly and vigorously, to stop smoking if they are smokers, treat their high blood pressure or diabetes, decrease stress and watch their diets. "I had been working out regularly at home and thought I was doing a good job," Coker noted. "But once I got in there and started exercising, I found out that I hadn't been doing enough."

The cardiac rehab team includes nurses, doctors, therapists, dieticians, pharmacists and other specialists, who work one-on-one with the patient. Sessions are held in conjunction with the Baptist Fitness Center.

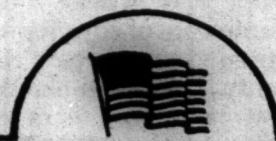
Coker adds that it's the people who make this program special. "I would highly recommend rehab to anyone," he said. "The people who run it are real people persons, and they make it interesting and fun. They were willing to go the extra mile."

Understanding the Benefits of Cardiac Rehabilitation

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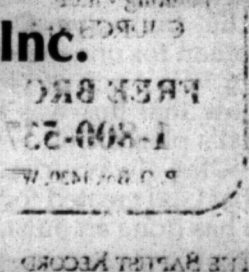
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EXPLORE THE BIBLE

A gifted, faithful man

Genesis 41:14-16; 28-30; 37-40; 55-57

By Edna Martin Ellison

We left Joseph in a dungeon last week, suffering hardships, but sustained by God. The Hebrew word for dungeon means "cistern," like the one into which he was thrown before his brothers sold him to traders traveling to Egypt. After several years in prison, Joseph interpreted the dreams of the king's baker and cupbearer, who served time in prison for a while. Although the cupbearer promised to help Joseph, he forgot Joseph's plight once he was released.

One night Pharaoh dreamed two troubling dreams. None of his scribes or astrologists could interpret the dreams. Then Pharaoh's cupbearer told him a young Hebrew prisoner had

correctly interpreted the cupbearer's dreams.

It Is Not in Me (41:14-16). Pharaoh sent for Joseph immediately (v. 14). Joseph listened to both dreams, but he made it clear that God, not he, was able to interpret dreams (v. 16). Joseph took full advantage of the opportunity God had given him to testify to his power.

What God Is about to Do (41:28-30). Pointing to God, Joseph said, "What God is about to do he [not Joseph] shows to Pharaoh" (v. 28). Then he interpreted the dreams. First, Pharaoh had dreamed seven skinny cows swallowed seven fat cows. Second, seven thin ears of corn ate seven plump ears.



Ellison

Joseph explained the seven fat cows and plump ears of corn represented seven years of plenty. The seven skinny cows and thin ears of corn represented seven years of famine, which would follow the seven good years (vv. 29-30). Joseph told Pharaoh to prepare for the famine.

A Man like This (41:37-40). Pharaoh was quite impressed with Joseph (v. 37). Remember, the Egyptians considered Pharaoh a god. For such a powerful man, it is astounding that he was pleased with Joseph, a Hebrew slave. After Joseph proposed they save 20% of all they produced, he influenced even Pharaoh to accept the plan (vv. 33-36).

Pharaoh rewarded him for his prudent plan by placing him second in command over all the land—as well as Pharaoh's personal household (vv. 38-40).

Go to Joseph (41: 55-57).

During the next few years, Joseph accomplished his plan. The country saved grain and other food. When the famine came, people cried out for relief (v. 55). Joseph was ready. He waited until the appropriate moment; then opened the storehouses to feed the people (v. 56).

Famines occurred often in ancient Egypt; however, it was unusual for Palestine and other parts of the Middle East to have a famine at the same time, as they did in Joseph's day. To relieve hunger, these countries turned to Egypt, which had plenty because of stored supplies (v. 57).

Questions to Consider.

1. Have you ever felt you were in a dungeon, like Joseph, waiting on God to act? Are you sitting in a hard place today? Examine what he is teaching you as you wait. Are you allowing him to build character as you experience the long wait?

2. God, who was in control, had a plan for Joseph. Can you see—right now—God's plan

for your life? Even if you are in a place where it is hard to see the steps ahead, relinquish control to him; allow him to show his path, step by step.

3. God gave Joseph special gifts to interpret dreams, to plan for emergencies, and to manage government programs. List gifts God has given you. Take time now to thank God for your abilities, talents, skills, and spiritual gifts.

4. How can you prepare for the future as Joseph did? Has God spoken to you about areas of your finances? Are there other areas you need to plan?

5. Joseph remained righteous regardless of circumstances. How can you strengthen your resolve to remain constant, grounded in the Lord? Determine steps you can take this week to grow more spiritually mature; perhaps through a daily time with God's word, prayer, or meditation.

Ellison is a consultant in the Miss. Woman's Missionary Union.

FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

Rejecting false teachers

2 Peter 2:1-10; 17-19

By Debbie Sills

There have always been false prophets within the Church. Any person whose teaching leads another away from Christianity is a false teacher and an enemy of Christ. They lead Christians astray and often destroy entire nations. The type of false teachers who were present in the Old Testament were surfacing in Peter's day, and are still present all around us today.

The Reality (2:1-3a). The reality is false teachers are still as rampant today as they were in Peter's day. They seek personal gain and recognition,

not God's will. Their teachings are often subtle and gradually lure believers away from God. Their teachings offer what is attractive and desired instead of what God says is true. Jesus says he is the way, the truth, and the life, and by his blood we are saved. The false teachers claim to love Jesus and claim to follow him, but their teachings and actions are a denial of Christ.

The Judgement (2:3b-10). Many people live as though what they do does not matter to anyone. They believe they are accountable to no one. God exercised his judgement on the



Sills

unjust and ungodly in the past, and will bring judgement on the false teachers as well. Verses 4-10 recount three stories of where God exercised his judgement on the ungodly. All three accounts have a similarity—the ones condemned were all living ungodly lives and leading others in the way of sin.

However, God also spared the lives of the godly and righteous during those times. Verse 9 reminds us God knows how to rescue the godly from temptation. The false teachers' sentences have already been given by God. In Deuteronomy 13:5 God tells us he will put to death those who lead others to rebel against God and his teachings. False teachers will be held accountable for their actions. They must answer not to man, but to God for their teachings.

The Bondage (2:17-19). One of the main attractions of false teachings is the promise of freedom. False teachers encourage people to live life as they want to. They claim we have the freedom to do anything we want without consequences. False teachers promise freedom and liberty, but actually provide bondage into corruption. Peter told his readers they were indeed free, but they must not use that freedom as a cloak for sin.

It is important for us to recognize the deceit of false teachings. Some teachers add to the Word of God to make it more suitable for their desires. Some twist the words so their interpretation is seemingly true. Still others add to salvation or take away from Jesus. They teach that one must do something in addition to accepting Christ as Savior in order to receive full salvation. They

tempt us with things we desire and convince us it is not sin. They say they care about us when they actually just care about themselves.

The real danger of their teachings is they are subtle. Their teachings mimic God's Word enough for it to make sense and sound as if it is from the Bible. If we as Christians are not familiar with what the Bible says, we are easy targets for these false teachings. Not only must we be alert to these teachings, we must be prepared to stand against them. The only way we can do that is to study the Bible, spend time with God, and surround ourselves with godly believers. If we have a knowledge of what God's Word really says, then the false teachings will not lead us astray.

Sills is advertising coordinator for The Baptist Record.

LIFE AND WORK

Romantic Love

Song of Solomon 2:8-10; 16a; 4:1-3

By Don Lum

This week we look at love in light of the scriptures as we examine the relationship between a man and a woman. This is a very special gift from God to his children.

In Genesis, God brought Eve to Adam and we read, "For this cause a man shall leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave to his wife and they shall become one flesh." This oneness includes the sharing of your dreams, your goals, your needs, your joys, your sorrows, your very life.

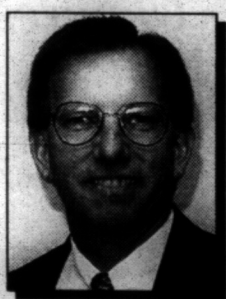
Note that God intended for two people to first share in their commitment to him. Then, as each grows closer to God they

should naturally grow closer to each other. Romantic love should grow and be enjoyed till death parts us.

The Song of Solomon has been interpreted as a picture that God gives us of Solomon and his romance with a Shulamite woman. It is a beautiful story of a growing relationship that includes both sexual attraction and fulfillment.

Be Exclusive (2:16a). One woman for one man for life. As you look back at Genesis 2:24 know that this was and still is God's plan for us.

Satan always tries to prevent what God created for good, and he has done an outstanding job



Lum

of deceiving people on this matter. One of the things he does among Christian couples is to make us too busy for each other. Romantic love needs to grow and that takes time. Every marrying couple should mark this verse and read it regularly.... "My beloved is mine and I am his." Think of your spouse as your "beloved," do the things it takes to make them that and you won't find yourself "attracted" to someone else.

Be Spontaneous (2:8-10). The bride is excited that her beloved is coming home. Does that sound like your house? This is an aspect of romantic love that we practice when we are dating but often times let slide as the years go by. Instead, it should be a part of every marriage as we learn to watch for ways to make our spouse feel loved and special to us. It

would help you to read the entire eight chapters of this little book and get a sense of the excitement and joy that marriage is meant to have.

Be complimentary (4:1-3; 5:10-13). As you read these two passages you see both partners describing their spouse in glowing terms. These verses specifically compliment physical appearance, but this aspect of romantic love can be much more than that. Words are so important. They are meant for us to use in building up each other (Eph. 4:29). How powerful they are! It has been said that it takes ten positive comments to counteract one negative one. What does your spouse remember you saying to them last? From this point on let it be something that makes them feel loved.

Be Imaginative (7:11-13). In this passage the couple is going out into the country, leaving their routine for a little while

and concentrating on each other. Our relationship with God is number one, but if you are married, your spouse is priority number two. Just as our relationship with God needs time alone, so does your relationship with your spouse. Be creative in looking for ways to spend time together.

Note, there are a number of good books that can be very helpful which are written by Christian men and women and in tasteful fashion...amen!

Romantic love is very important to the welfare of our homes, our churches, and our nation because it provides a building block for strong families. We need to spend time keeping all the parts of this dimension of love fresh and growing. It is a wonderful gift from God; celebrate it this year and make your spouse again your "beloved."

Lum is a consultant in the Miss. Baptist Evangelism Dept.

THE VILLAGE VIEW

The Baptist Children's Village



Ronny E. Robinson, Executive Director
P.O. Box 27, Clinton, MS 39060-0027
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ACCREDITED



COUNCIL ON ACCREDITATION
OF SERVICES FOR FAMILIES
AND CHILDREN INC.

BCV Friends,

1997 was a great at The Baptist Children's Village. Not only did 1997 mark one hundred years of ministry, but it also marked the year when Southern Baptist churches responded to the needs of The Village more so than in any of the ninety-nine previous years. To God be the Glory!

Many of you will remember that I issued a challenge at the 1996 Mississippi Baptist Convention. That challenge was for 365 churches and/or individuals to commit to operate The Baptist Children's Village for one day (\$7,500) in 1997. I'm excited to tell you that it was our good fortune to have total of 305 days committed by both churches and individuals. We had 3 churches (First Baptist Church, Corinth; First Baptist Church, McComb; First Baptist Church, Jackson) give enough to support the Village for 3 days each and eleven churches give enough to operate the Village for two plus days.

Below I am listing every church that supported The Baptist Children's Village for at least a half day in 1997. The churches are listed in order of their gifts. The totals for each church reflect gifts for 1997 received through January 21, 1998. Please study this list and if you feel there are any errors please call me.

I want to thank each of you personally for making 1997 such a wonderful Centennial year!

Ronny E. Robinson

CENTENNIAL CHALLENGE HONOREES

First Baptist Church, Corinth
First Baptist Church, McComb
First Baptist Church, Jackson
First Baptist Church, Gulfport
First Baptist Church, Water Valley
State Boulevard BC, Meridian
Immanuel BC, Vicksburg
West Heights BC, Pontotoc
Indian Springs BC, Petal
Carrollton BC, Carrollton
First Baptist Church, Kosciusko
Big Creek BC, Big Creek
Hillcrest BC, Jackson
Russell BC, Meridian
Morrison Heights BC, Clinton
Bunker Hill BC, Columbia
First Baptist Church, Batesville
Tylertown BC, Tylertown
Highland BC, Vicksburg
First Baptist Church, New Albany
Calvary BC, Jackson
Macedonia BC, Myrtle
Pleasant Hill BC, Bogue Chitto
First Baptist Church, Natchez
First Baptist Church, Clinton
Midway BC, Meridian
Parkway BC, Kosciusko
First Baptist Church, Bay St. Louis
Hillcrest BC, New Albany
Trinity BC, Southaven
Rolling Creek BC, Quitman
New Prospect BC, Iuka
Forest BC, Forest
Beulah BC, Decatur
First Baptist Church, Picayune
Willamsville BC, Kosciusko
Bethany BC, Calhoun City
First Baptist Church, Sardis
Calvary BC, Waynesboro

Gooden Lake BC, Belzoni
Leaf River BC, Collins
Rienzi BC, Rienzi
Horseshoe BC, Tchula
Mantee BC, Mantee
Sharkey-Issaquena Association, Rolling Fork
Central BC, McComb
First Baptist Church, Vicksburg
Pleasant Grove BC, Brookhaven
Ingomar BC, New Albany
First Baptist Church, Amory
First Baptist Church, Crystal Springs
First Baptist Church, Richton
D'Lo BC, D'Lo
First Baptist Church, Ripley
Hinkle BC, Rienzi
Center Hill BC, Ecu
Sand Hill BC, Richton
First Baptist Church, Louisville
First Baptist Church, Canton
First Baptist Church, Holly Springs
Seminary BC, Seminary
Briarwood Drive BC, Jackson
Union BC, Corinth
Harmony BC, Crystal Springs
Central BC, Golden
Topisaw BC, Bogue Chitto
Briar Hill BC, Brandon
Grace BC, Philadelphia
Sunrise BC, Carthage
Woodlawn BC, Vicksburg
Harmony BC, Louisville
First Baptist Church, Meridian
Iuka BC, Iuka
First Baptist Church, Columbus
Woodland BC, Woodland
First Baptist Church, Sumrall
Corinth BC, Carthage

Bethsaida BC, Philadelphia
Tate BC, Corinth
Weir BC, Weir
First Baptist Church, Mendenhall
Pleasant Ridge BC, Dumas
Fair River BC, Brookhaven
Bethel BC, Monticello
Ackerman BC, Ackerman
Fellowship BC, Meridian
Fellowship BC, Enterprise
Central BC, Brookhaven
Mt. Zion BC, Independence
First Baptist Church, Brandon
Van Winkle BC, Jackson
Old Silver Creek BC, Silver Creek
First Baptist Church, Calhoun City
First Baptist Church, Booneville
Plymouth BC, Columbus
Hollandale BC, Hollandale
Liberty BC, Liberty
First Baptist Church, Brookhaven
Handsboro BC, Gulfport
Roseland Park BC, Picayune
Ephesus BC, Forest
Pleasant Valley BC, Mendenhall
Raymond BC, Raymond
Perkinston BC, Perkinston
First Baptist Church, Greenville
First Baptist Church, Collinsville
Vaiden BC, Vaiden
NW Baptist Association, Hernado
Parkway BC, Tupelo
Poplar Springs BC, Newton
Sylvarena BC, Raleigh
Elliston BC, Blue Springs
Artesia BC, Artesia
Fredonia BC, New Albany
Wildwood BC, Clinton
Bovina BC, Vicksburg

First Baptist Church, Hazlehurst
First Baptist Church, Union
Society Hill BC, Oakdale
Riverside BC, Monticello
Liberty BC, New Albany
First Baptist Church, Newton
Gaston BC, Booneville
First Baptist Church, New Augusta
Parkway BC, Clinton
First Baptist Church, Yazoo City
First Baptist Church, Starkville
North Winona BC, Winona
Broadmoor BC, Jackson
Meadville BC, Meadville
First Baptist Church, Nettleton
Slayden BC, Lamar
New Hebron BC, New Hebron
First Baptist Church, Coldwater
Bowmar Avenue BC, Vicksburg
Hurley BC, Hurley
First Baptist Church, Belmont
Fairview BC, Columbus
Springfield BC, Morton
First Baptist Church, Van Cleave
Crowder BC, Crowder
Pace BC, Pace
First Baptist Church, Abbeville
First Baptist Church, Taylorsville
Wathall BC, Wathall
North Greenwood BC, Greenwood
Mt. Moriah BC, Bogue Chitto
Hopewell BC, Meadville
Calvary BC, Bogue Chitto
Flat Rock BC, Blue Mountain
Northminster BC, Jackson
First Baptist Church, Quitman
First Baptist Church, Indianola
Calvary BC, Belmont
North Batesville BC, Batesville

Child care registration opens for Salt Lake

SALT LAKE CITY (BP)—Registration for on-site child care for preschool children of out-of-town messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting, June 9-11, is now being accepted.

A registration form is available by writing to SBC Preschool Child Care, c/o Holladay Baptist Church, 2780 E. 3900 S., Salt Lake City, UT 84124. Attn: Jan/Sherrie.

Child care fees will be \$10 per session. A non-refundable deposit of 50% of the anticipated cost must accompany each registration form.

Parents are advised to register early. Registration will be on a first-come, first-served basis due to limited space. Preschool child care will be in the Salt Lake City Salt Palace (convention center).

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
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EARYZCX KMFO AU XEZK
RECJE EZMGP XEZ RAGP
YZNCZLZP; MFP XEZ
FSKYZG AU XEZ KZF RMI
MYASX UCLZ XEASIMFP.

MJXI UASG: UASG

Clue: 1 = S

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: John Fourteen Three.

Gambling affecting children, La. study says

SHREVEPORT, La. (BP) — Children in Louisiana are developing gambling problems as early as 11 years of age, according to a study by the Louisiana State University School of Medicine in Shreveport.

"Sixth-grade gamblers already exhibiting addictive behavior — that was astonishing to us," said James Westphal, an associate professor in the medical school's department of psychiatry.

In an extensive survey of 12,066 students in grades six through 12 across 57 parishes in Louisiana last spring, researchers found that 84% or more of them had gambled.

Two-thirds of the students said they had tried scratch-off lottery tickets — even though it is illegal for adolescents to buy them in the state.

One-fourth or more of the students said they had tried video poker — a widespread and addictive form of gambling in Louisiana and various other states — along with the lottery, bingo, dice, and cards.

Sixteen percent of the students said they had bet on slot machines. Seven percent said they had been to horse races and bet, while 4% had visited a riverboat casino and 3% had gambled at one.

In questions to identify students who appear headed for gambling problems, researchers found that 10% of Louisiana children were considered high-risk for gambling problems and 6% gave responses indicating pathological gambling problems.

Of the scratch-off lottery tickets, Cheryl Scott, a certified compulsive gambling counselor in Shreveport, told The Times daily newspaper, "I've seen parents buy a ticket and let their kid scratch it off. That's just setting them up or planting the seed early."

Meanwhile, a poll by the Baton Rouge Advocate newspaper shows that support for gambling is in a freefall, with only 16% of Louisianians saying the activity has had a positive impact on the state.

By contrast, 49% of those surveyed said legalized gambling has had a negative impact on the state and 30% said it has made no difference.

In polling at the end of 1996, 30% of people said gambling had been good for the state and 38% said it had been bad.

Thirty-five percent of respondents to the latest poll said they knew of someone who had gotten into serious financial trouble because of gambling.

Sixty-four percent said gambling is a serious or very serious problem in the state.

"I do agree that more people are filing for bankruptcies, more divorces are happening, more John Q. Citizen people are either being directly affected or know someone who has been affected (by a gambling problem)," acknowledged Audrey McCain, a state representative from Plaquemine.

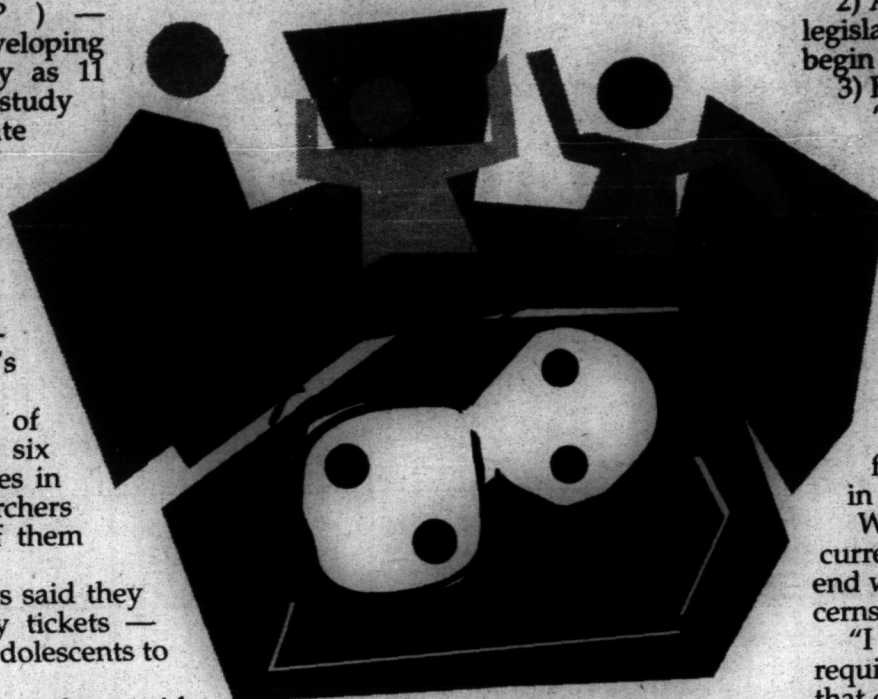
"The longer that tends to happen, the more disgruntled the public is going to be."

When state legislators gather for a special session at the first of March, their agenda will include whether to approve a new plan for reviving the bankrupt land-based casino in New Orleans.

Gambling proponents insist that approval of the casino would not represent an expansion of gambling since it was open at one time and is simply trying to reorganize.

Gambling opponents have a simpler way of defining the issue:

1) There is no casino gambling in New Orleans at this time.



2) Approval of a new agreement by the legislature will allow casino gambling to begin in New Orleans.

3) How else does one define expansion?

"I strongly disagree with all who deny that the ratification of the revised (land-based casino) contract with Harrah's Jazz Company by the legislature would not be an expansion of gambling," emphasized Ken Ward, executive director of the Louisiana Moral and Civic Foundation.

Another gambling-related issue to be considered in the legislature's regular session, entails final approval for placing slot machines at racetracks in a pair of Louisiana parishes.

Ward noted some observers predict the current wave of legalized gambling will end within the next 25 years as public concerns and outcry increase.

"I sincerely think the moral response requires that we do all we can to hasten that day," he said.

Crime more frequent in casinos than on Atlantic City streets

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (BP) — Visitors to Atlantic City are "more likely to become victims of crime while gambling than while walking city streets," according to a December special report in The Press of Atlantic City daily newspaper.

Citing state police statistics not previously specified for crimes in casinos, the newspaper reported, "More than half of the city's 10,510 reported crimes last year (1996) — 5,705, to be exact — occurred on the gaming floors of the city's 12 casino hotels. Virtually all of those casino reports were for nonviolent larceny thefts, such as picked pockets, snatched purses, and stolen coin cups."

The National Gambling Impact Study Commission, meanwhile, ventured to Atlantic City Jan. 21 in the first of a series of visits this year to major gambling centers across the country.

The nine-member commission was created by Congress last year to examine the social and economic consequences of the nation's \$40-billion-a-year legalized gambling industry, and complete its study in June 1999.

The commission is chaired by Kay Coles James, dean of Regent University's school of government in Virginia and a former official in the Bush administration. Commission members range from family advocate James Dobson of Focus on the Family to J. Terrence Lanni, chairman and chief executive of the Nevada-based MGM Grand casino and hotel company.

During its hearings Jan. 21, the commission heard a compulsive gambler, who requested anonymity, testify, "All I wanted to do was gamble, and then I graduated to a new level of getting money: not by working (but) by conning and cheating, robbing prostitutes on Atlantic Avenue, taking them back to the rooms that I was getting comp (free casino hotel accommodations) at 17 years old." His testimony was recounted in Focus on the Family's Citizen Issues Alert Jan. 27.

From the pro-casino perspective, Citizen Issues Alert reported that Kevin Anderson, a member of the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees' International Union, Local 54, told the commission,

"Casino gambling has given myself and my seven younger brothers and sisters a life that we never could have dreamed of."

The Press of Atlantic City, in its mid-December report, noted that gaming officials and law-enforcement experts described the casino-crime figures in Atlantic City as low, considering the gambling mecca's estimated 34 million visitors in 1996, but the newspaper also quoted Jon'a Meyer, a law professor at Rutgers University law school, Camden, N.J., as calling the figure "astonishingly high" no matter how many people visit the city.

"That's a lot of pickpockets," Meyer told The Press. "The state needs to release more information, like who is committing these thefts — local people, other casino patrons, et cetera."

Rich Procaccino, captain of the state police casino bureau, told The Press that as many as 80% of the casino incidents "do not represent what we consider valid crimes, because we can't validate them."

Customers often claim they've been victimized but police can find no proof, Procaccino told the newspaper. A smaller percentage of customers, he said, file false reports to manufacture excuses for gambling losses.

The Press quoted Daniel Wright, director of security operations at Caesars Atlantic City, as saying, "About 40 to 50% of those (crimes) are lost or mislaid items. An individual walks away from his wallet, pocketbook or jacket, comes back some time later and the items are not there."

Said Wright, "The story ends up very nicely if security picks it up. If someone else does, it turns into a statistic."

In terms of violent crime, casinos reported 26 such crimes in 1996, compared to 863 for the rest of Atlantic City, The Press reported.

The newspaper also cited casino-floor crime figures released by the state attorney general, showing that casino crime increased by 26% from 1994-96 in Atlantic City while crime elsewhere in the city decreased by 7%.

The average rate of all casino incidents in 1996 was 1.3 crimes per casino per day.